

- PHILLIPS, A.P. (1954): The cause of partial albinism in a Great-tailed Grackle. *Wilson Bull.* 66: 66.
- PRASAD, G. (2000): The Black Drongo's (*Dicrurus macrocercus* (Bechstein)) white crown. *Zoos' Print Journal* 15(10): 349.
- ROSS, C.C. (1963): Albinism among North American birds. *Cassinia*

47: 2-21.

- SENECA, J.J. (1985): A record of extreme leucism in the Carolina Wren. *Wilson Bull.* 97: 222.
- SLAGSVOLD, T., G. ROFSTAD & J. SANDVIK (2009): Partial albinism and natural selection in the hooded crow *Corvus corone cornix*. *Journal of Zoology* 24(1): 157-166.

6. FIRST RECORD: SELECTION OF AN ELECTRIC POLE AS A ROOSTING SITE BY BLACK IBIS IN NORTH GUJARAT REGION

RAJESH C. SENMA^{1,2} AND CHIRAG A. ACHARYA^{1,3}

¹Department of Biology, M.N. College, Visanagar 384 315, Gujarat, India.

²Email: rcsibis@gmail.com

³Email: drchirag_acharya@yahoo.com

We observed 72 Indian Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* on a giant electric pole on the roadside, and 42 on another electric pole off the road at Vasaniya Mahadev (23° 19' N; 72° 38' E, 89 m above msl), Gujarat, when we were returning from Gandhinagar on December 25, 2009, at 18:05 hrs. We stopped our car and waited for sunset, after sunset we could hear the Indian Black Ibis call. We waited for two hours to confirm if this was a roosting site of the Indian Black Ibis. We also asked the local people who confirmed that Indian Black Ibis gathered to roost on electric poles. On earlier occasions (three to four times) we have noted similar behaviour on the outskirts of Visnagar (23°42' N; 71°34' E, 127 m above msl), Gujarat; where five to seven Black Ibis were observed roosting on an electric pole (Eds: photographic evidence provided). This, however, is the first record of a flock of Black Ibis roosting on electric poles.

During a three-year period we had observed Indian Black Ibis usually roosting on tall trees like Nilgiri *Eucalyptus globulus*, Neem *Azadirachta indica*, Mango

Mangifera indica, *Polyalthia longifolia* and species of *Ficus*. Several authors (Chavda 1988; Vyas 1992; Chavda 1997; Soni 2008) have noted that Black Ibis use tall trees like *Cocos nucifera*, *Borassus flabellifer*, *Roystonea regia*, *Millingtonia hortensis*, *Polyalthia cerasoides*, *Ficus amplissima*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Sterculia foetida*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Prosopis cineraria*, *Albizia lebbek* for roosting. They are part of a single or multi species communal roost. Usually the birds select the largest trees in the vicinity, probably because such trees are safer than the shorter trees. But selection of a giant electric pole for roosting might be an adaptive response of the birds to its abnormal height.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank UGC (Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme for SC/ST students) for providing financial assistance. We are also grateful to Dr. M.I. Patel, Principal, M.N.College, Visnagar for providing facilities.

REFERENCES

- CHAVDA, P.B. (1988): Behavioural and Ecological study of Indian Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* at Junagadh. M. Phil. dissertation, Saurashtra University, Rajkot.
- CHAVDA, P.B. (1997): Studies on some ecological aspects of the Indian Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* (Temminck), at Junagadh and its surrounding area. Ph.D. Thesis, Saurashtra University, Rajkot.
- SONI, K.C. (2008): Study on population, foraging, roosting and breeding activities of the Black Ibis / Red napped Ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*) inhabiting the arid zone of Rajasthan. Ph.D. Thesis, Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer.
- VYAS, S. (1992): Ecological and Behavioral Study of the Indian Black Ibis. Ph.D. Thesis, Saurashtra University, Rajkot.

7. OCCURRENCE OF THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD *ARDEOTIS NIGRICEPS* IN BIKANER REGION OF THE THAR DESERT

PARTAP SINGH^{1,4}, D.R. SAHARAN¹, JITENDAR SOLANKI² AND S.P. MEHRA³

¹5-C-137, JNV Colony, Bikaner 334 003, Rajasthan, India.

²Vinayaka Guest House, Old Ginani, Bikaner 334 001, Rajasthan, India. Email: vinayakguesthouse@gmail.com

³Kesar Bhawan, 16/747, P. No. 90, B/d Saraswati Hosp., Ganeshnagar, Pahada, Udaipur 313 001, Rajasthan, India.

Email: spmehra@yahoo.com

⁴Email: partapsk@yahoo.com

Great Indian Bustard (hereafter, GIB) *Ardeotis nigriceps* is an endangered bird species of India (Islam and Rahmani

2002) and is the state bird of Rajasthan. According to an estimate of Rahmani and Manakadan (1990) the total number